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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1911

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THE CAREER OF THE INVESTIGATOR¹

SCARCELY more than a generation ago the graduate in medicine had his professional career marked out for him with a fair degree of definiteness. Private practice, as exemplified in the functions of the family physician, offered, apart from surgery, almost the only opportunity for the use of a medical training. During the past thirty years how extensively have medical activities become diversified. The paths of service that now invite the young physician are so varied that every graduate should be able to select a way for employing his peculiar powers to the best advantage. Quite apart from the conventional career of the physician, the surgeon, or the different specialists, are the opportunities for usefulness in the widespread movements which are socializing medicine. In professional service at hospitals and sanatoriums important work can be done; in boards of health, municipal, state and national; in public propaganda for temperance, for the prevention of infant mortality, for industrial hygiene, for the care of school children; in the campaigns against tuberculosis and venereal disease—in all these activities the possibilities of applying a medical education usefully to social needs are numerous and are yearly increasing.

Still another new career open to the young graduate is that of research in the medical sciences. For attracting young men into scholarly careers the medical sciences are, I suspect, at some disadvantage compared with other natural sciences.

¹ Address to the graduating class of the Yale Medical School, June, 1911.

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